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May 5, 2000

The Honorable Rodney Slater
United States Department of Transportation
400 7th street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

OST-00-7181-27

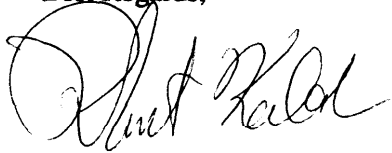
The **recent** signing of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation **Investment** and Reform Act for the **21st** Century (the "Ford Act") has great **potential** to increase competition and provide more travel choices for the residents of Colorado. Under section **41718** (a), the **Department can** award up to twelve exemption slots to allow limited frequencies on routes between Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and domestic hubs beyond the **1,250** mile **perimeter** rule. We urge you to approve the petition submitted by Denver-based Frontier Airlines for **four slots** to allow nonstop service to Denver **International** Airport, which is located outside of the perimeter rule. An award of the **slots** requested to Frontier would benefit the Denver community, Colorado, communities throughout the west and the future of airline competition.

Frontier is entering its sixth year of operations, as well as its second consecutive year of profitability. The airline currently provides air service to **20** major metropolitan cities **from its** Denver hub, and **16** of those are among the top origin and **destination markets** as measured by the Department. Direct service to National Airport would **add a** significant component to Frontier's scope, as well as provide convenient, one-stop service to cities served by Frontier beyond Denver.

The "Ford Act" **calls** for "**increased** competition by new entrant carriers or in multiple markets" and we believe Frontier's presence offers a strong track record in promoting air competition in Denver and throughout the country. The slots awarded- **by** the Department to **Frontier** Airlines at New York's **LaGuardia** Airport in **1997** are a good example of how opening markets and promoting air competition is beneficial for multiple communities. Since the inception of Frontier's Denver - **LaGuardia** service, the number of passengers traveling on this route has **increased** more than **88** percent, while the average fare on that same route has decreased more than **22** percent. These statistics aside, the mere fact that the citizens and businesses of Denver (and communities **connecting** in Denver) and New York have additional travel options should **be counted** as a success for **all** communities, as well as for the Department.

We hope you will demonstrate your continued support for the future of deregulation by awarding two non-stop daily flights (four slots) from National Airport to Frontier Airlines. As proponents of open markets and airline **competition**, we thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best Regards,


Robert Kalik